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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,271	07/09/2003	Jim Rinaldo	353943	8200
34356	7590	05/13/2004		EXAMINER
ASHKAN NAJAFI, P.A. 113 LAMPLIGHTER LANE PONTE VERDA BEACH, FL 32082			PHILLIPS, CHARLES E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3751	

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/615,271	RINALDO, JIM	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charles E. Phillips	3751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/9/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3751

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The description lacks support for the claim 1, line 3 "removably connectable" recitation, and the same recitation of claim 3, lines 8 and 10. The same language is employed in claims 9, 10, 16 and 17.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Starkweather.

See Figs 1-2 where a bag 18 is exposed at 20 to the weight of the user in order to maintain its position.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starkweather in view of Miles.

The former with legs 13 and connector members under 22 gives full response to claim 3 except for the "elongate support member". Miles teaches such a member at 11 employed to control separation of the legs. To employ this expedient in the environment of the former would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan as same is taught in a similar art device.

Claims 2, 5-7, 9-14 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starkweather as applied supra, in view of JP 408224191 A.

JP teaches a folding cover 4 attached by hook and loop 6. To provide the former with such a cover would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan, as toilets are conventionally known to possess covers. Re: claim 5 and its like claims, if the cover 4 were employed on Starkweather it would inherently be "connected to one said plurality of connector members".

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starkwaether as applied supra, in view of Chernomashentsev.

The latter teaches the use of a carrying case in Fig. 2 for a seat as taught in Fig. 12. To employ such an expedient for Starkweather would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan as same is shown to be known in the art.

Claims 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Chernomaschentsev as applied in the rejection of claim 8 supra.

Art Unit: 3751

The use of the trade name in claims 7, 14 and 19 is objected to.

Hingley et al, Amerman et al and Wernli et al show other portable toilets.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Charles Phillips
at telephone number 308-1515.

Phillips/DI

May 3, 2004


Charles E. Phillips
Primary Examiner